

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Parcel Eligibility and Ranking Form Nevada FY 2011
Fiscal Year
Landowner Name and Address
Cooperating Entity: Name and Address
State in which the Parcel is Located
County in which Parcel is Located
Locality (Town/Township) in which the Parcel is Located
Is the Landowner AGI Eligible? ____ Yes ____ No
Is the Landowner HEL Eligible? ____ Yes ____ No
Is the Landowner WC Eligible? ____ Yes ____ No
Name of NRCS Employee Confirming Landowner Eligibility
Signature of NRCS Employee Confirming Landowner Eligibility
Is the Cooperating Entity Eligible? ____ Yes ____ No
Name of NRCS Employee Confirming Entity Eligibility
Signature of NRCS Employee Confirming Entity Eligibility
Does Cooperating Entity have a Pending Offer for the Parcel (Y/N)?
Name of NRCS Employee Confirming Parcel Offer
Signature of NRCS Employee Confirming Parcel Offer
Does the offered land have 50% prime, unique, and or statewide or locally important farmland? ____ Yes ____ No
Does the offered land have historic or archeological resources? ____ Yes ____ No
Does the offer include land that supports the objectives of a state or local farm and ranch land protection program? ____ Yes ____ No
Is the Land Eligible (Y/N)?
Name of NRCS Employee Confirming Land Eligibility
Signature of NRCS Employee Confirming Land Eligibility

Nationally Mandated Factors (Must be > 50% of Total Points)		
Ranking Factor and Scaling	Maximum Points	Points
Percent of prime, unique, and important farmland in the parcel to be protected(0 points for 50 percent or less, 1 point for every percent above 50 percent)(National Mandate – 0 points for 50% or less - Eligibility Criteria)	50	
Percent of cropland, pastureland, grassland, and rangeland in the parcel to be protected(0 points for 33 percent or less, 1 point for every percent above 33 percent)(National Mandate – 0 points for 33% or less - Eligibility Criteria)	67	
Ratio of the total acres of land in the parcel to be protected to average farm size in the county according to the most recent USDA Census of Agriculture (www.agcensus.usda.gov) (0 points for a ratio of 1 or less, 10 points for ratios of 1.0 to 2.0, 20 points for ratios of greater than 2.0) (National Mandate – 0 points for ratio of 1 or less)	20	
Decrease in the percentage of acreage of farm and ranch land in the county in which the parcel is located between the last two USDA Censuses of Agriculture (www.agcensus.usda.gov) (0 points for decrease of 0 percent or less, 10 points for decreases of 0 to 5 percent, 20 points for decrease of 5 to 10 percent 10 points for decreases of 10 to 15 percent, 0 points for decreases of more than 15 percent) (National Mandate – 0 points for 0% or less)	20	
Percent population growth in the county as documented by the United States Census (www.census.gov) (0 points for growth rate of less than the state growth rate, 10 points for growth rate of 1 to 2 times the state growth rate, 20 points for growth rate of 2 to 3 times the state growth rate, 0 points for growth rate of more than 3 times the state growth rate) (National Mandate – 0 points growth rate less than the state growth rate)	20	
Population density (population per square mile) as documented by the most recent United States Census (www.census.gov) (0 points for population density less than the state population density, 10 points for population density of 1 to 2 times the state population density, 20 points for population density of 2 to 3 times the state population density, 0 points for population density of more than 3 times the state population density) (National Mandate – 0 points population density less than the state population density)	20	
Proximity of the parcel to other protected land, including military installations (0 points for less than 250 acres of protected land within a mile of the boundaries of the parcel, 10 points for 250-500 acres of protected land within a mile of the boundaries of the parcel, 20 points for 500 acres or more of protected land within a mile of the boundaries of the parcel)	20	
Proximity of the parcel to other agricultural operations and infrastructure (0 points for less than 500 acres of agricultural land within a mile of the boundaries of the parcel, 10 points for 250-500 acres of agricultural land within a mile of the boundaries of the parcel, 20 points for 500 acres or more of agricultural land within a mile of the boundaries of the parcel)	20	
Total Points for Nationally Mandated Ranking Factors	237	

Nevada NRCS State Ranking Factors

I. PERCENTAGE OF SOILS AND/OR ARCHAEOLOGICAL OR HISTORIC RESOURCES

Maximum 63 points

Percentage of some combination of prime, unique and/or farmland of statewide or local importance relative to the entire parcel of land being offered and/or contains historic or archaeological resources.*
(NRCS will not accept parcels unless they meet the eligibility criteria set forth in sections 519.32c, 519.32d, and 519.32e of the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program Manual.)

	Points Allowed	Your Project Value
<50%	0	
>50 %	10 Points (Baseline) plus	
	1 pt. for every % increase of prime, unique,	
	Statewide, etc. soil	

Ex. Producer has 100 acres of which 65 are prime, unique etc and 35 that are not.

Scoring= 10 pts. + (65% -50%= 15%) = 25 total points

** For the farm or ranchland to be eligible under this provision, the applicant must provide documentation showing that historical or archaeological resources are located on the farm or ranchland and are:*

- Listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), or
- Formally determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places by the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) or Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO), or
- Formally listed in the State or Tribal Register of Historic Places.

If eligible historic or archaeological resources are located on the offered land, the following ranking criteria will apply.

	Points Allowed	Your Project Value
Listed in the NRHP	3 Points	
Eligible for listing in the NRHP	2 Points	
Listed in the state or tribal register	1 Points	

II. EXISTING LAND USE

Maximum 18 Points

	Points Allowed	Your Project Value
Cropland, Hayland/Pastureland (grasslands)	18 Points	
Rangeland (native vegetation)	14 Points	

Prorate if the offer has a mixture of any land use.

III. PROXIMITY TO PROTECTED CLUSTER(s)

Maximum 15 Points

Parcels that contribute to large protected contiguous tracts. Parcels that link to other Private, Federal, Tribal, State, local, or non-governmental organizations' efforts with objectives complementary to farm and ranch land protection. These clusters must be at least 20 acres in size. (i.e., undeveloped open space, watershed and wildlife protection, etc.). Note: a trail across an adjacent property is not classified as "developed".

	Points Allowed	Your Project Value
Adjacent (property lines touch)	15 Points	
> Adjacent – 1320'	10 points	
1321' - 2640'	5 Points	

Wilderness or other permanent easements for open space and/or agriculture use are protected clusters. (Ag Zoning and Ag Protection Zones are NOT a protected cluster.)

** FRPP will not fund the acquisition of eligible lands, if the NRCS State Conservationist or NRCS National Office determine that the protection provided by FRPP would be ineffective due to on-site or off-site conditions. Such conditions include, but are not limited to, the presence of hazardous materials on the parcel or a neighboring site and the close proximity of the site to an area zoned for development.*

IV. USDA FRPP COST/ ACRE

Maximum 55 points

Fair-market easement value multiplied by NRCS contribution percentage divided by the total acres of pending offer.

	Points Allowed	Your Project Value
\$1,000 - \$2,000	55 Points	
\$2,001 - \$3,000	51 Points	
\$3,001 - \$4,000	47 Points	
\$4,001 - \$5,000	43 Points	
\$5,001 - \$6,000	39 Points	
\$6,001 - \$7,000	35 Points	
\$7,001 - \$8,000	31 Points	
\$8,001 - \$9,000	27 Points	
\$9,001 - \$10,000	23 Points	
\$10,001 - \$11,000	19 Points	
\$11,001 - \$12,000	15 Points	
\$12,001 - \$13,000	11 Points	
\$13,001 - \$14,000	7 Points	
\$14,001 - \$15,000	3 Points	
>\$15,001	0 Point	

Example:

Appraised fair market easement: value /acre \$10,000
Total acres of offer: 600
Total appraised fair market easement value is \$6,000,000

$$\frac{\$6,000,000}{600} \times .50 \text{ equals } \$5,000$$

This example would earn 43 points.

If the State Conservationist determines that the purchase of two or more conservation easements are comparable in achieving FRPP goals, the State Conservationist shall not assign a higher priority to any one of these conservation easements based on lesser cost to FRPP. In other words, where two or more easements share the same number of ranking points, and only one parcel may be funded, one easement will not be ranked higher than the other(s) based on FRPP investment in the conservation easement. Criteria other than cost must be used to break the tie.

V. LEVERAGING

Maximum 10 Points

What percentage of the appraised easement offer requires USDA funds?
Total funding requested from USDA, for easement:

	Points Allowed	Your Project Value
< 19 %	10 Points	
20 - 24 %	9 Points	
25 - 29 %	8 Points	
30 - 34 %	7 Points	
35 - 39 %	6 Points	
40 - 44 %	5 Points	
45 - 50 %	4 Points	
> 50 %	Not eligible	

Document the leveraging:

What are the funding sources?

Are they committed? If yes,

NRCS easement cost			\$
Identified	Applications only?	Committed?	
Other Sources cost (list name)	Yes No	Yes No	\$
Other Sources cost (list name)	Yes No	Yes No	\$
Total easement cost			\$

VI. HISTORY OF ENTITY EASEMENT WORK

Maximum 6 Points

Participating entities' histories of acquiring, managing, holding, and enforcing easements, (including annual farmland protection expenditures, monetary donations received, accomplishments, and staff).

* In evaluating proposals, priority ranking should be given to those entities with a long-standing and successful history in acquiring and protecting farmland and that have extensive experience in managing and enforcing easements and adequate staff to manage stewardship responsibilities.

	Points Allowed	Your Project Value
Greater than 5 easements	6 Points	
1-5 easements held	3 Points	

Name of Organization To Hold Easement:
Address:
Phone Number:
Contact Person:

VII. HEL/Wetland Compliance and Conservation Plan

Maximum 7 Points

Intent: place a higher priority on farms that already meet FRPP conservation compliance requirements.

Application includes a current (prepared, revised, or reviewed within the last 5 years) conservation plan with a plan map AND signed AD-1026 forms(s) for all fields owned by the landowner.

- | | |
|---|----------|
| 1. Current Conservation Plan. | 5 points |
| 2. Conservation Plan has practices planned or implemented (within past 5 years) that will benefit wildlife habitat. | 2 points |
| 3. Does not meet the above criteria. | 0 points |

VIII. Land Evaluation Site Assessment Plan (LESA) or Similar Plan

Maximum 5 Points

Intent: give priority to county or, local areas that have developed land evaluation prioritization procedures.

Was offered acreage prioritized according to LESA or comparable plan? Yes=5 pts
(Documentation must accompany written proposal for points to be given.) NO= 0 pts

SUMMARY OF THE CRITERIA

Total Points by Sections

Section	Available Points (% of whole)	Your Total Project Value
I. Percentage of Soils and/or Archaeological or Historic Resources	63	
II. Existing Land Use	18	
III. Proximity to Protected Cluster(s)	15	

IV. USDA FRPP Cost/Acre	55	
V. Leveraging	10	
VI. History of Entity Easement Work	6	
VII. HEL/Wetland Compliance Plan/Con. Plan	7	
VIII. LESA or Similar Plan	5	

TOTAL POINTS: 179

Total points from National Questions: _____

Total points from State Questions: _____

Overall Total Ranking Score: _____

Submit “offers” as requested in the RFP to:

**Bruce Petersen, State Conservationist
Natural Resources Conservation Service
1365 Corporate Blvd.
Reno, NV 89502-7102**

(A) Application Steps, Defined

The following steps outline FRPP application procedures.

- Step 1:** Landowners interested in participating in FRPP submit an application to eligible non-governmental organizations or State, Tribal, and local governments that have an existing farm and ranchland protection program. They must also sign a CPA-1200 Conservation Program Application at their local NRCS Field Office.
- Step 2:** NRCS will have a continuous sign up for FRPP. Annually, a cutoff for ranking will be announced at which time all eligible applications that have been received will be ranked.
- Step 3:** Non-governmental organizations, State, Tribal or local entities submit FRPP proposals to the State Conservationist before the date specified in the announcement.
- Step 4:** The NRCS State Conservationist receives the proposals and determines entity and land eligibility.
- Step 5:** The NRCS State Conservationist, with advice from the State Technical Committee, may rank the parcels based on the criteria in the State FRPP plan and/or LESA system or similar land evaluation system used to evaluate parcels.(Nevada ranking Criteria will be used)
- Step 6:** The NRCS State Conservationist makes awards to eligible entities based on the funds provided by the NRCS National Office. Once selected, NRCS will enter into cooperative agreements with selected entities.
- Step7:** Following cooperative agreement signature by NRCS and the selected entity, funds may be obligated to the entity and the entity may begin to purchase conservation easements.